

28 February 2012

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Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Peat,

Thank you for your letter of 1 February inviting **sportscotland** to respond to questions raised in relation to petition PE1319. **sportscotland** welcomes the opportunity to respond to the points raised by the Public Petitions Committee and I hope that my answers to the points below prove helpful in your further consideration of the petition.

How do you maintain accountability for the public funds distributed by the SFA to its member clubs?

The public funds that **sportscotland** invests into the Scottish Football Association (Scottish FA), as with all governing bodies, is made against clear investment principles. We support governing bodies to develop robust plans which contain specific outcomes for the sport, and then **sportscotland** invests into those plans and works with the sport governing bodies to achieve those outcomes. The public funds invested into the Scottish FA are not distributed to member clubs.

Clubs, whether involved in the professional or non-professional game at a junior or senior level, do benefit both directly and indirectly through our significant investment into facilities all across Scotland. Our investment into facilities, and our work with partners to develop and improve facilities, is outlined in more detail below.

Does sportscotland have, or does it intend to develop, a long-term plan to provide quality artificial playing surfaces for football training and playing in all regions?

sportscotland works with the Scottish FA and all 32 of Scotland's local authorities to look at the provision and maintenance of artificial playing surfaces. **sportscotland** works with those partners to ensure that our investment into facilities meets the needs of local communities and is accessible to clubs across the country. We believe the current system works well, as local priorities can be identified and individual clubs, supported by the local authority, can apply for investment into their facility.

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sportscotland is the trading name of the Scottish Sports Council



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sportscotland are now members of the Scottish FA Facilities Forum which was established on 3 December 2011. This new approach to facility development brings together the professional and non-professional game to develop a national pitches and facilities strategy that is owned by the Scottish FA and by clubs. The aim of this forum is to map out priorities for investment into football facilities, and develop an understanding of what support is needed where in Scotland. We think this approach is a positive development and will add value to the current strategic approach adopted by **sportscotland**.

The CashBack for Communities programme has also provided a great deal of investment into football and football facilities. Since 2009/10, the CashBack facilities programme has invested £2,447,467 and **sportscotland** has a responsibility for supporting these projects. The benefits of administering the CashBack facilities programme in this way are that it allows the priorities for facilities funding to be identified by the local authority and the Scottish FA.

Since 2009/10, we have invested £7,760,356 into 33 separate football facilities throughout Scotland through our Sports Facilities Fund. The Sports Facilities Fund provides capital grants to building programmes from upgrading pitches to third generation synthetic (3G) to large scale building programmes such as venues for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Through our sportsmatch programme, which gives funding to match money already raised by other sponsors, we have invested £167,866 into 74 football related applications since 2009/10.

The Awards for All programme is our other funding stream which is administered by the Big Lottery Fund. This fund provides small grants of up to £10,000 to local community groups for delivering projects or improving facilities. In the years 2010/11 and 2011/12, we have invested £150,611 of lottery funding into 51 football applications.

I hope this information proves useful to the work of the Public Petitions Committee in the consideration of PE1319 and the issues it has raised. Please do not hesitate to contact me further if I can provide any more detail, and I would be happy to speak to the Committee in person if it would be at all beneficial to this enquiry.

Stewart G Harris
Chief Executive